

BOOK NOTICES

Timber Press

MARK F. LARGE and JOHN E. BRAGGINS. 2004. **Tree Ferns**. (ISBN 0-88192-630-2, hbk.). Timber Press, Inc. 133 S.W. Second Ave, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$39.95, 360 pp., 131 color photos, 3 tables, 12 line drawings and 15 maps, 7 3/8" × 10 3/8".

This book is about ferns that look like trees. Tree ferns are true ferns and reproduce as other ferns by production of spores. Some of the species are beautifully displayed in the many color photographs provided in the book. The dust jacket says, "This volume is the source of information on the living tree ferns. It surveys all the families, genera, and species, including those that are suitable for the home garden. It offers up-to-date taxonomy and detailed descriptions as well as in-depth coverage of everything from tree fern use to conservation. In recognition of the horticultural importance of tree ferns, the authors provide extensive cultivation information, including propagation and diseases and pests."—*Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, Texas 761202-4060, U.S.A.*

DAVID E. ALLEN and GABRIELLE HATFIELD. 2004. **Medicinal Plants in Folk Tradition, an Ethnobotany of Britain and Ireland**. (ISBN 0-88192-638-8, hbk.). Timber Press, Inc. 133 S.W. Second Ave, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, mail@timberpress.com, 503-227-2878, 1-800-327-5680, 503-227-3070 fax). \$29.95, 432 pp., 31 color photos, 57 b/w illustrations and 1 map, 6" × 9".

Publisher Comments This book provides the first comprehensive account of medicinal uses of wild plants by the country folk of Britain and Ireland. Two of Britain's foremost ethnobotanical scholars mined nearly 300 published and unpublished sources, including information gathered by the Irish Folklore Commission in more than 1000 manuscript volumes, to chronicle the fascinating uses of more than 400 plant species.

"Among the many kinds of plants recorded here are a seaweed used in Scotland against 'all maladies except the Black Death', a mushroom stewed in milk in Norfolk to soothe the cancer of the throat, a fern identified in Ireland as a 'herb of the seven gills' for its reputed ability to cure diseases, and the remarkable range of benefits attributed to nettles. Such information, in addition to being interesting in and of itself, offers a starting point for phytochemical and pharmacological investigations of plants whose utility may have been overlooked. An appendix of veterinary uses is provided. Illustrations include 57 carefully chosen drawings and 31 colour photographs by Deni Bown."